My Dearest Wife

Rome 5th Nov.r 1774.

I have just had the inexpreſsable pleasure of a kind affectionate letter from you it is Dated 5.th of Sep.r and informs me of your Dear little familys health. but you say nothing of your own why did you not tell me you was well if you were so I fear you were not but I will indeavour to hope the best; by your kind letter I am relieved from very great anxiety by the London papers we were informed that on the 3.d of Sep.r the Ships had begun to fire on the town of Boston, Judge of my feelings on this intelligence; and although in the same paper the Acc.t was contradicted yet I could not but feel very uneasy your Letter is two Days later and gives me no such account and would make me very happy but that I fear you suffer great inconvenience from the difficulty of collecting the Money that is Due to me, I think it is very cruel in People to put it off when they know you cannot live without it, as to M.r Green; I cannot expreſs my self with that decency I would always wish to preserve, and say what I think of him I am glad you put the buſineſs into a Lawyers hands I advised you to in my last letters, & I now beg you will do in all things as you with the advice of your friends, Shall Judge best & I ſhall most certainly be pleased; I am very fearfull Boston will soon become a place of Blood-shed and confusion, but my Dear, let me intreat you to keep up your spirits, and use every precaution for your own and Dear Childrens safety, should any thing ~~of~~ so terable take place I tremble when I think of my Dear friends, I wish em out of the place, but I pray God to keep you all by his perpetual providence from evil of every kind, and in his good time to bring us together again; do not my Dear Life, think the time so distant, I shall make it short if it pleases God to spare my Life; I am exceeding well and trust, I shall be able to get a living in England; for I think there is but little dependance to be put on what I have in Boston; considering my circumstances, I shall suffer more than most People in the Dispute which I think very great hardship; But my Dear life the wants of life are few if we would be content with the neceſsarys, perhaps we shall be obliged to live on the neceſsarys only; perhaps we may want even them, if we do we must make ourselves as contented as we can; we must submit with resignation to the will of God in all things; but I trust we shall not have these severe tryals; O my life I am all impatience to see you & my Dear little Baby you have no Idea but from your own feelings what mine are, your Dear Letter I view with pleasure; & feel ten thousand ~~anxiety~~ ancietys for you

when it pleases God to bring us together again I hope we shall not be seperated till
Death we never shall if I can prevent it, for I cannot be happy without you
are with me, not all the amusements this great City affoards is sufficient to
~~would be sufficient~~ make our seperation agreable for a few months; could I consult
my feelings in this, but it must be submited to, for the present. I have been
here near a fortnight am doing every thing possable to make my stay short
I intreat of you to keep your Spirits up, & to take every care of yourself,
for my sake, for our Dear little Childrens sake; I am happy to hear of them such
favourable Accts I pray God to bless them with health and Virtue; kiss them for
me my Dear Sukey; I am much troubled for Brother Harry my affection
for him is very great, I pray God to keep him & give him health and all
things that is good for him boath in this world and the next; I wish he had
wrote by the ~~this~~ same conveyance that brought me your kind letter;
I wish you had been more perticular in your Account of his health my
fears are great for him, least he should be any ways Dangerous which I
am led to suspect from the Doctors advice, and his going so long a journey
I hope my fears are not well founded, give my kind love to him, and beg
him to take every precaution for the recovery of his health; give my affectionate
Love and Duty to my ever Hond and Dear Mother, To our Hond Papa, & remember
me in Love to our Brother & Sister Bromfield, Brother Isaac; Brother & Sister Startin
when you write to them, and request him to give my compliments and thanks to Doctr Morgan for his very
kind introduction to so many Worthy Gentlemen in this and other places,
it contributes much to my happiness here to have fallen into such an acquaintance
as his Letters have introduced me to; Give my Duty to Uncle & Aunt Oliver
Uncle and Aunt Winslows, & Uncle & Aunt Cabbot, & perticular give my respectfull
Love ~~& respects~~ to Mr & Mrs Lee & remember me to all my friends. to Mr Walter
perticularly, & to Doct Byles, to Mrs Gill, and all others that think ~~my~~ me worth
inquiering after; I hope, & think I have many friends in Boston, and always shall
think of them with regard, When you see our Brother and sister Pelham, give my kind
Love to them, I believe they hardly expect I should write to them from this place
it would be attended with so many expences and must pass so far & through
so many hands, & will but, be a repetion of what I write to you, which you
will make more entertaining by your relation of it; It is truly Astonishing to see
thee the works of Art in this City, Paintings, Sculptor, Architecture is so great
in Quantity, Beauty, & Magnificience, as exceeds all disscription, A few Days
ago I Visited the Church of where I say the Transfiguration ~~of~~ by Raphael
this Picture has been painted near three Hundred years, and is in good preservation
it is painted on board, it has always been allowed to be the
best Picture in the World; when Raphaels Dyed, this Picture was placed

RN176

at the head of the Corps and viewed with astonishment, ~~as~~ the work of so young Man, perfect in all its parts, an Immortal Monument to him who Lay Dead by it & was soon to be mixed with the Dust of the Earth, Raphael Dyed at the age of 37 and this wonderfull Picture has stood to be admired, and studied, near three hundred Years, and if it meets no extraordinary accident it is probable it will last many Ages to come, it is certainly a wonderfull Peice of Art. When I was at Florance I saw the Statue of the Venus of Medices this statue was dug up some where near Rome I beleave tho I am not quite sure, it has been made near two Thousand Years. & yet it is as perfect in all its parts, as Clean and fair in its Colour, as if it had been finished but a Day, and so beautifull that one Stands astonished to see how Marble could be indued with so much the appearance of real life; I shall always, I trust, enjoy a sattisfaction from this Tour I never should have had if I had not made it; I know the Extent of the Arts to what length they have been carried, & I feel more confidence in what I do myself than I did before I saw them. I hope I shall be enabled to make such a use of my Tour as will better my fortune, I wish to convey to your some Idea of St. Peters Church, But I must leave that till I am again happy in your Dear Company. But I must draw to a close of this letter; I think you applaud my attention in writing so constantly and ~~so~~ such long letters, but yours are not so long as they aught to be you might have wrote me half a sheet more in the l[illegible]e just received I beg you will not send blank paper, do write me al[illegible] think of; I want to know how your two mades came to leave you, I am glad to hear Readman behaves well, I wish to know your Inclination relitive to your Coming to England, wether or you would prefer it, to my coming back to America or not, I wish you would write me on this head in your next, you will consider the situation of Boston, you will consider, the dificultys of the Voyage I mean the Difficultys to your coming and independant of my affairs say wether you would be best pleased to leave Boston till its peace is restored, or have me return & continue in it, I beg you will tell me your inclinations & I shall comply with them, as far as I can; dont be reserved in this My Dearest Life, if Peace should be restored to America & my circumstances would permit me to sit down on my little farm I shall ~~[illegible]~~ certainly return to it with you from England when ever you shall wish to go to it again with pleasure, ~~if it shall be your inclination~~; I wish to know if Harry had any Business to do after I left Boston, But my Dear Wife, Adieu, be Cheerfull, keep a good heart, trust in Heaven, & we shall be happy Adieu, once more adieu, kiss my Babys & believe me my beloved & Dear Wife your Affectionate & Constant
Husband

John Singleton Copley

I have inclose a Letter for my Dear Mother

4176

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To
Mrs Copley
in
Boston

Rome 5 Nov.r 1774
Mr. Copleys Letter